

Minutes of Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting of the October 16, 2016.

Board members present were Stephan Miller, Doug Greenfield, Phil Goff, Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin and Ron Sender. Board member absent was Scott Smith. Others` attending were Rod Holland, Nat Strosberg, Darcy Devney, Jacob Dec, Seth Federspiel, Joey Glushko, Emily Snyder and Officer Steve Conroy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Introductions were made all around.

*Approval of the October minutes. The draft minutes were approved unanimously after amendments were made.

COBWEB. Officer Conroy introduced himself and told us that he has heard grumbling about the Bikeway/Lake St. intersection. We briefly reviewed the history of the deliberations on that subject. He then asked us about any concerns that we may have with enforcement of traffic laws. Christopher told him that he would like to see the police have some training on the operation of the HAWK lights shortly to be deployed in Arlington Center. Phil expressed concern about motorists stopping at the new crosswalk in the Center regardless of the state of the HAWK signal. He feels that the right of way is ambiguous and motorists won't know how to proceed. Everyone agreed that this is going to be a problem. Jack would like to see the No Turn on Right signs reinstated at the Mystic St./Mass. Ave. intersection. Rod told us that he has observed a motorist turning onto the Bikeway at Mill St. We all agreed that such events have become rare.

The TAC report. Christopher told us that the Mass. Ave./Foster St. intersection bicycle detection system is being worked on to make it more responsive to bicycles. Phil told us that he and Scott have reviewed the restriping plan for Rt. 3 which is being repaved. The plan includes bike lanes when the width of the road permits them and sharrows when it does not.

Report from the Arlington disability Commission. Darcy told us that additional handicapped spaces are being added in Arlington Center. The locations of these spaces will be available on the Town Website. Darcy suggested that the location of bike racks would be a welcome addition to that map. She suggested that we need to verify the location of the racks before the map is finalized. She also told us that they will need to move some bike racks that interfere with handicapped spaces. She specified which racks must be moved and would like to have our input as to the locations that they should be moved to.

Bikeshare. Seth told us about the ongoing negotiations for bringing bike sharing to Arlington. The major system in the area, Hubway, is currently in Boston, Brookline, Somerville and Cambridge. Hubway is now negotiating new contracts in those cities and they are trying to improve the opportunity for outside funding opportunities which could help bring Hubway to Arlington. MAPC has been heading the efforts to expand the Hubway system. Other communities that have expressed interest in Hubway are Newton, Belmont and Medford which would make this option very attractive for Arlington. Lexington and Bedford are interested in

more of a rental model, possibly Zagway, which would be better for tourists and navigating the Minuteman Bikeway.

Seth would like input from ABAC about what type of system(s) we should buy into. Christopher added that our informal survey at Town Day indicated that most people surveyed are more in favor of the Hubway system. Bedford is currently not interested in Hubway and prefers Zagster. Lexington is still on the fence. Seth told us that we need to consider this decision very carefully.

If Arlington decides in favor of Hubway, they can help us look for sponsors to defray the cost to the Town. Emily asked if there is any possibility that Arlington will kick in some funds for this purpose. Nat told us that there is a possibility that the Town can fund a portion of the cost. Seth passed out a questionnaire that will be distributed to Arlington residents. He would like our comments to improve the questionnaire. We spent some time discussing possible siting of bikeshare stations.

Bicycle Counters. Nat told us that the Town would prefer buying a portable bicycle counter rather than one that is fixed in place. Nat is researching the state of the art for these counters and told us that there is a good possibility that the town will purchase one.

Bikeway Anniversary Celebration. Nat is working on pulling together a committee to plan the anniversary. He told us that has encountered a fair amount of interest in serving of this committee.

2016 Winter Social. Christopher suggested that we make the Social the kickoff of the Anniversary celebration. He added that our chosen venue, The Common Ground Pub, is likely to be more expensive than in past years. We discussed alternatives such as churches or town owned rooms. Most of us thought the location and facilities of The Common Ground are ideal for our purposes. Joey will contact Alan McClennen to see if he will be willing to speak at the event.

Bike Repair Station. Nat told us that the station, to be sponsored by Whole Foods Market, was approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Arlington Redevelopment Board so the only task that remains is the installation.

Bikeway hours. Nat gave us a summary of what we need to do to change the hours. We all thought that the best way to proceed will be to form a working group to deal with all the issues and contact the stake holders. We discussed the issue with officer Conroy and he gave us the pros and cons from the point of view of the Police Department. Having specified hours gives the Police broader discretion when stopping people on the Bikeway at night. Jack suggested that we treat the Bikeway as a transportation corridor, like the streets, which are never closed. Christopher and Rod volunteered to help Nat with this issue.

Dates and location for next year's meetings. Next year's meetings will take place on the third Wednesday of the month (except July) at the Town Hall Annex.

AASHTO Tour. Jack facilitated a ride on the Bikeway for about 40 participants from the AASHTO conference that took place in Boston last month. Jack was the leader and guide and gave a talk on the history of the Bikeway, the former railroad and the area in general. Jack thought it went very well so we made some friends in the Department of Transportation.

Tri-community meeting. This meeting will be on December 7 at the Lexington Community Center. Potential agenda items could be ebikes, signage and plowing the Bikeway.

Annual Report. Christopher will do a rough draft and would like some input about items to be included.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

*A vote of the board was taken.

These minutes submitted by Stephan Miller